

Taiwanese diplomats are already putting out the word that Taiwan's President, Lee Teng-hui, who is almost certain to be re-elected, will call for a truce and seek to establish direct trade, shipping and air services.

But for China the essence of the problem is Taiwan's quest for international recognition. It is likely to continue its military harassment until Taipei officially abandons its aspirations for statehood. But Mr. Lee is unlikely to do so, giving the United States a stark choice between supporting the forces of freedom and self-determination on the island or those of suppression and belligerence on the mainland.

This is a choice America needs to avoid. By standing firm against Beijing and counseling Taipei to be cautious, America may be able to bring both sides to the negotiating table.

Given China's current hypernationalistic atmosphere and the struggle to succeed Deng Xiaoping, it is doubtful that it will show restraint on Taiwan if left unchecked. It is up to the United States, with the support of its Asian and European partners, to deter China's aggression. The alternative is escalating tension and possibly war over Taiwan.●

TRIBUTE TO SP4C MICHAEL FITZMAURICE—VIETNAM VETERAN FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

● Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I would like to pay tribute today to Michael Fitzmaurice, a South Dakotan and fellow Vietnam veteran who went far beyond the call of duty during his service for our country. Michael is a native of Cavour, SD, and served as an Army specialist [SPC] 4th Class. Michael's singular accomplishment in Vietnam came when he singlehandedly saved the lives of three of his fellow soldiers. These reminders of his heroism couldn't be more appropriately timed given the presence of our brave troops currently stationed in and around Bosnia. Recently, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and the Hartford Area News published articles about Michael.

Leaping onto a grenade and saving the lives of three soldiers; tossing two live grenades back at the enemy; charging North Vietnamese troops—weaponless in the midst of combat—these are all accounts of SPC Michael Fitzmaurice's courage during battle. Michael's actions fill me with a sense of respect and pride. Americans can rest easy knowing men and women such as Specialist Fitzmaurice defend the values for which our country stands. I commend Specialist Fitzmaurice's example of commitment and bravery. He is truly a worthy recipient of the prestigious Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery.

Mr. President, part of what makes a soldier fight to the finish lies in the sense of dignity and respect for humanity our parents and communities instill within us. Having grown up not far from Specialist Fitzmaurice, I can vouch for the family-oriented atmosphere in which we were raised. The Golden Rule was not just an adage, but words by which we were taught to live by each and every day. Michael's heroic actions were premised by years of being taught respect for one's country, community, and fellow man.

Courage. Bravery. Selflessness. These are the things of which heroes like SPC Michael Fitzmaurice are made. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for the example set by Michael and the thousands of brave men and women who similarly have fought or even died so that others might experience freedom. Time and again, people like Michael Fitzmaurice demonstrate to us the interminable vigor of the human spirit. Mr. President, I ask that articles which recently appeared in the Sioux Falls Argus Leader and the Hartford Area News, be printed in the RECORD.

The articles follow:

HARTFORD MAN TO BE HONORED FOR HEROISM

PIERRE.—Michael John Fitzmaurice of Hartford will receive a unique honor later this year for heroism while serving in Vietnam 25 years ago.

Legislation providing the Hartford man with the state's only set of Congressional Medal of Honor license plates is nearing the end of its Statehouse journey.

The bill was approved 66-1 Tuesday in the House; it had cleared the Senate earlier but must be returned there because of changes made by the House.

Fitzmaurice received the Medal of Honor for bravery in 1971. When three North Vietnamese hand grenades were lobbed into the bunker where Fitzmaurice and four fellow soldiers hid, he pitched two of them out and dropped on the third one.

"He absorbed the blast, shielded his fellow soldiers," said Rep. Hal Wick, R-Sioux Falls, "and although suffering from serious multiple wounds and partial loss of sight, he charged out of the bunker, engaged the enemy until his rifle was damaged by the blast of an enemy hand grenade, and then while in search of another weapon, encountered an enemy in hand-to-hand combat."

MEDAL OF HONOR HERO

(By Pat Smith)

Michael Fitzmaurice is South Dakota's only resident Congressional Medal of Honor Hero. He lives quietly on Second Street and you will find him at church on Sunday, perhaps a basketball or volleyball game on Friday. He helps with softball, Jamboree Days, kids games, the parade (of which he was marshal this year) and many other activities in our town. A quiet man with a loving spirit. Overwhelmed by the fact that he received the Medal of Honor and will tell you that he was just in the wrong place at the wrong time . . . but he was doing the right thing.

This quiet man will be honored by the South Dakota Legislature with a distinctive license plate. Senate Bill #98 has passed the Senate and House and will be sent for the governor's signature this week.

Michael received his Congressional Medal of Honor the same day as Leo Thorsness at the White House from then president, Richard Nixon in 1973. He received it for saving the lives of his comrades during a battle in Vietnam. He threw two enemy hand grenades up in the air and fell on the remaining one to save their lives. The results were eye damage, shrapnel wounds and broken ear drums, but saved lives.

This is a story like something you might see on television. A real life hero living in a small town, going about his life, volunteering to serve his country, saving lives, then going back to living his life in a small town again. And the reason this is such a great story is, although Michael Fitzmaurice is a Congressional Medal of Honor hero, he puts on no airs. He is a hero going to work each

day, helping put up and take down chairs at meetings, supporting his town, school and church and just being a friend and neighbor. If the media didn't bring it up, you would never know. Maybe that is what a real hero is . . . doing what must be done and then just going on.●

INDICTING CHINA'S TERRORISM

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, A.M. Rosenthal has a thoughtful column on the situation regarding China in the New York Times, and I ask that it be printed in the RECORD.

I am not as certain as he is that the case should be brought to the United Nations because I'm not sure what the other countries would do. But at the very least, that possibility should be explored.

A firmness is needed in this present situation. The Rosenthal column, among other things, cites a sentence from the recent State Department human rights report: "The experience of China in the past few years demonstrates that while economic growth, trade and social mobility create an improved standard of living they cannot by themselves bring about greater respect for human rights in the absence of a willingness by political authorities to abide by the fundamental international norms."

There are times when the international situation demands clear-cut policies. This is one of them.

The column follows:

[From the New York Times, Mar. 12, 1996]

INDICTING CHINA'S TERRORISM—BRING THE CASE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

(By A.M. Rosenthal)

By firing missiles into the waters off Taiwan, Communist China is committing open, deliberate international terrorism of enormous danger.

Americans count on Beijing's survival instincts to stop the terrorism short of the disaster of war with the U.S. That may happen—this time.

But every day that Washington fails to bring the missile blackmail and blockade of Taiwan before the U.N. increases the chances it will happen again, or something worse, until the disaster does take place.

The Communists' rage and fear at the example of Taiwan's democracy off their shores will not let them rest unless the Taiwanese give it up.

That is not likely. If any pro-democracy majority is elected in the March 20 voting, before long there will be another round of terrorism.

That may include some Chinese military landings on Taiwan. U.S. vessels will have to move in to live up to American word and legislation that the Taiwan-China relationship will not be changed by force.

So far, the U.S. has had to act alone. The Japanese do not have the political courage to make any strong public protest against the terrorism. I have not heard our European allies warn the Chinese that if it comes to it, they will immediately line up with the U.S.

U.S. failure to bring the Chinese before the U.N. will destroy a basic purpose of the U.N. The U.N. was not created simply to end wars but to stop them before they begin. Article 34 of its charter authorizes the Security Council to take up any matter that might lead to "international friction or dispute."